

Message Text

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22

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /079 W

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R 260922Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6430

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 4877

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, ID, PO, PT, SN

SUBJECT: 31ST UNGA: COMMITTEE IV CONSIDERATION OF TIMOR

REF: (A) STATE 263488, (B) SINGAPORE 3348, (C) SINGAPORE 2957,
(D) SINGAPORE 0046

1. FOR REASONS SET FORTH REF B, C AND D (NOTAL), GOS WILL NOT PUBLICLY SUPPORT GOI ACTIONS IN EAST TIMOR. HOWEVER, IT DOES NOT WISH TO ANTAGONIZE GOI ON THIS ISSUE AND WILL MAINTAIN AS LOW A PROFILE AS POSSIBLE.

2. LATEST EXPRESSION OF GOS ATTITUDE WAS BY P.M. LEE KUAN YEW DURING OCTOBER 21 INTERVIEW ON AUSTRALIAN TV. WHEN QUESTIONED ABOUT SINGAPORE'S ATTITUDE REGARDING TIMOR LEE STATED: "WELL, OUR VIEW WAS EXPRESSED I THINK VERY ELOQUENTLY BY A COLLEAGUE OF MINE AT THE UNITED NATIONS AND I WOULD HATE TO PARAPHRASE HIM.
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IT (THE GOS POSITION) IS NOT AS WELCOME AND FORTHCOMING

AS THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD WISH US TO BE BUT IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE CASE, IT IS UNDERSTOOD NOT WITH GREAT WARMTH... BUT IT HAS BEEN ACCEPTED AND IT IS A POSITION WHICH WE TAKE WHICH WE THINK IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES IS NOT ONLY HONEST TO OURSELVES BUT HONEST TO THEM AND TO THE WORLD. I THINK IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN A LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP OF FRIENDSHIP AND UNDERSTANDING IF WE BEGIN TO MISUNDERSTAND EACH OTHER, PARTICULARLY (WHEN) WE BEGIN TO THINK WE CAN EXPECT UNQUESTIONING SUPPORT WHEN THAT SUPPORT HAS NOT BEEN SOUGHT BEFOREHAND."

3. ALTHOUGH GOS OFFICIALS MIGHT PRIVATELY AGREE WITH MILDLY WORDED RESOLUTION ON TIMOR ALONG THE LINES OF THE ONE ADOPTED AT COLOMBO, WE DO NOT THINK GOS WOULD WISH TO RISK ANTAGONIZING BOI BY VOTING IN FAVOR OF IT, ESPECIALLY IF THE OTHER ASEAN GOVERNMENTS VOTED AGAINST IT. ON BALANCE, WE THINK GOS WOULD ABSTAIN. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY RECENT REPRESENTATIONS TO GOS ON THIS SUBJECT.
HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

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